

# **State of Alaska FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Administration Alaska Longevity Programs Budget Request Unit Budget Summary**

## **Alaska Longevity Programs Budget Request Unit**

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### **BRU Mission**

To issue longevity bonus payments to eligible individuals and manage the Alaska Pioneers' Homes.

### **BRU Services Provided**

Administration of the six Pioneers' Homes and the Alaska Longevity Bonus program.

### **BRU Goals and Strategies**

PROVIDE A HOME-LIKE MODEL OF CARE THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF PIONEERS' HOMES RESIDENTS IN AN ASSISTED LIVING ENVIRONMENT

- Work with nationally recognized experts in the field of gerontology and Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) to develop and optimize gerontological services for residents with ADRD

FIND OPPORTUNITIES TO REALIZE OPERATING EFFICIENCIES

- Decrease facility energy use, supplies costs, workers' compensation, and medication costs while continuing to provide excellent care.

PROVIDE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE PIONEERS' HOME STAFF

- Provide programmatic and administrative (nursing, personnel, policy, financial and procurement) support to staff of the six Pioneers' Homes.
- Facilitate on-going training opportunities to Pioneers' Home staff to increase their knowledge regarding the needs and specialized care requirements for residents with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD).

EFFECTIVELY MANAGE THE LONGEVITY BONUS PROGRAM DURING ITS PHASE-OUT PERIOD

- Ensure warrants are delivered to the US Post Office on the last working day of the month.
- Respond to inquiries about the program within one working day.

### **Key BRU Issues for FY2002 – 2003**

Deferred Maintenance - The Pioneers' Homes program must develop some means to address the ongoing deferred facilities maintenance issues. The backlog of maintenance issues continues to grow as funding levels only allow maintenance for immediate threats to the health and safety of residents, with virtually no funding for proactive maintenance.

Need for increased Pioneers' Home staffing - Increasing age and frailty of the population served, increasing amount of service provision, and increasing need for labor-intensive dementia care continue to result in a need for additional direct care staff. If present staffing is not deemed adequate to serve the population, the only option for the Homes is to reduce census and not fill all vacant beds.

Continue to develop and refine the Quality Assurance Program that includes a standardized unusual occurrence tracking system - While we recognize that unusual occurrences can and do happen, we will minimize their negative effect by assessing our processes, identifying inadequacies and developing interventions.

Pursue Nationally Recognized Accreditation for the Pioneers' Homes - This demonstrates our commitment to excellence. The accreditation process focuses on performance based standards and quality improvement analytic techniques.

Pharmacy Outreach - Through publications and visitations, our Chief Pharmacist will provide programmatic and educational services to Alaskan seniors outside the Pioneers' Home system.

Collaborate with Experts - The Pioneers' Homes continue to collaborate with nationally recognized research and product development experts regarding improved safety, care and environment.

Recruitment - Participate in state and national job fairs to improve our ability to recruit direct care staff in a time of national shortage.

Policies and Procedures - Update and revise the division's policies and procedures to reflect changes in regulations, statute, best practice standards and to incorporate the Eden Alternative.

### **Major BRU Accomplishments in 2001**

- The Eden Alternative was implemented in all six Pioneers' Homes during FY2000 and now all homes are Eden Alternative certified. The program has been demonstrated to be very effective in combating loneliness and depression in the elderly by providing a safe home setting that includes plants, animals and children.
- Nationally Recognized Gerontology Experts Report on the Pioneers' Homes - Experts conducted reviews and published reports of findings and recommendations regarding pharmacy operations, quality assurance, environment and activities.
- Cost Containment - Continued to pursue strategies for cost containment including centralization, computerization and standardization. Group purchasing, division-wide facilities management and the in-house pharmacy all provide immediate cost savings.
- Designed and Implemented Quality Assurance Program - Our overall goal is increased resident safety. The main program objectives are tracking and trouble shooting unusual occurrences, identifying trends and providing the legislature with statistical information as required by statute.
- Selected the agency to accredit the Pioneers' Homes.
- Community Outreach - Increased emphasis placed on educating the community about the Pioneers' Homes and national trends including the current and future role of the Pioneers' Homes system, difficulties recruiting direct care staff and the need for increased staffing with the increase in the elder population.
- The Assisted Living Federation of America certified three Pioneers' Home Administrators.
- Two Pioneers' Home Pharmacists passed the examination to become Fellow's of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists. Fellowship in the Society is an honor recognizing professionals who meet the highest standards in Senior Care Pharmacy, demonstrating an extraordinary level of service and dedication in professional practice activities.

### **Key Performance Measures for FY2003**

#### **Measure:**

The number of vacancies in the Alaska Pioneers' Homes.  
Sec Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

#### **Alaska's Target & Progress:**

##### **January 1, 2001 through June 30, 2001:**

There are approximately 600 licensed assisted living beds in six Pioneers' Homes located in Anchorage, Palmer, Fairbanks, Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan.

At times a limited number of beds are unavailable for occupancy because of facility renovations, building or fire code violations, or staffing constraints. The monthly occupancy percentages indicated below are based on available beds occupied and "assigned." A bed is assigned after an applicant has signed an admission contract for a room prior to occupying the room.

The "Available Beds" column indicates all unfilled beds reported at month end. Over 80% of available beds are in the coordinated services (residential) and basic assisted living care areas. Few applicants apply for these beds which do not provide 24 hour oversight and direct care.

Month/2001	% occupied	Available Beds
Jan	84.9%	86
Feb	83.8%	92
March	84.4%	88
April	84.9%	85
May	85.1%	84
June	86.0%	79
<b>Avg/mo</b>	<b>84.8%</b>	<b>85</b>

**July 1, 2001 through September 30, 2001:**

There are approximately 600 licensed assisted living beds in six Pioneers' Homes located in Anchorage, Palmer, Fairbanks, Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan. The information contained in the tables below is from the Pioneers' Homes' monthly occupancy report.

At times, a limited number of beds are unavailable for occupancy because of facility renovations, building or fire code violations, or staffing constraints. The vacancy information indicated below is based upon vacant available beds

Total number of vacancies at end of each month, as measured by occupancy report:

July 2001	90
August 2001	82
September 2001	91
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>88</b>

The total number of vacancies for the quarter measured has remained relatively static.

Total number of vacancies at end of each month, by level of care, as measured by occupancy report:

	July 2001	August 2001	September 2001
Coordinated services	53	50	51
Basic assisted living	20	19	21
Enhanced assisted living	5	4	8
ADRD	9	7	7
Comprehensive services	3	2	4

The total number of vacancies by level of care for the quarter measured has remained relatively static. The vacancies are predominantly in the coordinated services and basic assisted living levels of care. There are few applicants for these levels of care, which do not include 24-hour oversight and direct care.

Total number of vacancies at end of each month, by Pioneers' Home, as measured by occupancy report

	July 2001	August 2001	September 2001
Anchorage	50	48	50
Fairbanks	5	3	4
Juneau	2	1	1
Ketchikan	0	0	3
Palmer	0	0	0
Sitka	33	30	33

The total number of vacancies by Pioneers' Home for the quarter measured has remained relatively static.

**Benchmark Comparisons:**

We currently have no benchmark information for this performance measure.

**Background and Strategies:**

The Division of Alaska Longevity Programs works to ensure that the Pioneers' Homes provide care for the number of residents that available resources allow.

**Measure:**

The percentage of longevity bonus payments issued as scheduled.  
Sec 14 Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

**Alaska's Target & Progress:**

During the past six years, all Longevity Bonus payments were issued as scheduled.

**Benchmark Comparisons:**

We currently have no benchmarks for this performance measure.

**Background and Strategies:**

The Division of Alaska Longevity Programs will continue to work to ensure that all Longevity Bonus payments are made as scheduled.

**Measure:**

The number of incidents in Alaska Pioneers' Homes resulting in resident injury as compared to the national average for similar facilities.  
Sec 14 Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

**Alaska's Target & Progress:**

In January 2000, the Division of Alaska Longevity Programs began research on available computerized tracking systems which would allow the Pioneers' Homes to adequately track unusual occurrences in a standardized way.

In July 2000, the Division contracted with CBR Associates Inc. who provided RISKPlus software, training, and support services. With the implementation of the RISKPlus software, the Homes were able to convert all unusual occurrences and medication errors into trend data which allows them to now analyze performance on an on-going basis. It is the Division's goal that accurate and standardized information will make a positive impact on the quality of care provided in the Alaska Pioneers' Homes.

Expert Evaluation

In October 2000, the Division consulted with the University of Southern California (USC), Division of Geriatric Medicine, to conduct a site visit of the Anchorage, Palmer and Fairbanks Pioneers' Homes to evaluate the Pioneers' Home Quality Assurance and RISKPlus programs and to compare the programs to national standards.

Results: Falls

The National Safety Council lists falls in older adults as five times more likely to lead to hospitalization than other injuries. Such incidents 10-20% of the time result in a serious injury and 2-6% result in a bone fracture. In skilled

nursing facilities, 50% of all residents will fall in a year. If they are ambulatory, the incidence goes up to 61% for residents 75 years of age and older.

The following table is a summary of all reported falls and sentinel events within the Alaska Pioneers' Homes for the last six months of FY 2001.

**Alaska Pioneers' Homes Fall injury Rate, January 1, 2001 to June 30, 2001**

Actual number of falls	Sentinel Event Injuries	Pioneers' Home Fall Injury Rate	National Fall Injury Rate
431	5	1.2%	from 2 to 6%

The percentage of falls within the Pioneers' Homes resulting in serious injury (sentinel events) were below national statistics.

The following table is a summary of all reported falls and sentinel events within the Alaska Pioneers' Homes for the first three months of FY 2002:

Actual Number of Falls	Sentinel Event Injuries	Pioneers' Homes Fall Injury Rate	National Fall Injury Rate
238	7	2.9%	From 2 to 6%

**Benchmark Comparisons:**

**Alaska Pioneers' Homes Fall injury Rate, January 1, 2001 to June 30, 2001**

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**Alaska Pioneers' Homes Fall injury Rate, July 1, 2001 to September 30, 2001**

The following table is a summary of all reported falls and sentinel events within the Alaska Pioneers' Homes for the first three months of FY 2002:

Actual Number of Falls	Sentinel Event Injuries	Pioneers' Homes Fall Injury Rate	National Fall Injury Rate
238	7	2.9%	From 2 to 6%

**Background and Strategies:**

The Division of Alaska Longevity Programs continues to work with direct care staff to ensure that the incidence of injury of Pioneers' Homes residents remains as low as possible.

**Measure:**

The medication error rate in Alaska Pioneers' Homes as compared to the national average for similar facilities.

Sec Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

**Alaska's Target & Progress:**

**Medication Error Rate**

A medication error is defined as any event of inappropriate medication administration or omission. The medication error rate reflects the number of medication errors relative to the total number of medication dosages given.

The following table is a summary of medication errors in the Pioneers' Homes for the six month interval between January 1, 2001 and June 30, 2001:

Number of Medication Dosages Given	Number of Medication Errors	Pioneers' Home Medication Error Rate	National Medication Error Rate
743,910	362	0.5%	5%

The following table is a summary of medication errors in the Pioneers' Homes for the three-month interval between July 1, 2001 and September 30, 2001:

Number of Medication Dosages Given	Number of Medication Errors	Pioneers' Home Medication Error Rate	National Medication Error Rate
389,565	281	0.1%	5%

Based upon these figures, the medication error rate at the Pioneers' Homes remains far below the 5% medication error rate that is considered acceptable by the Health Care Financing Administration, which oversees and surveys nursing facilities throughout the United States.

The medication error rate is not the only indicator of safety. The type of medication error and the type of follow-up care needed by a resident after an error occurs are also significant safety indicators.

The major type of medication error that occurred in the Pioneers' Homes during the reporting interval was the omission of a dosage of a medication. Other types of errors which are potentially more dangerous include giving the wrong medication to a resident, giving the wrong dosage of a medication to a resident, or giving a medication to a different resident than the medication is intended for. These types of errors were extremely rare within the already very low error rate at the Pioneers' Homes. None of the medication errors reported during the period resulted in a resident requiring hospitalization.

#### **Benchmark Comparisons:**

The medication error rate at the Pioneers' Homes remains far below the 5% medication error rate that is considered acceptable by the Health Care Financing Administration, which oversees and surveys nursing facilities throughout the United States.

#### **Background and Strategies:**

The Division of Alaska Longevity Programs will continue to work with direct care staff to ensure that the medication error rate in the Pioneers' Homes is kept at the lowest possible level.

**Alaska Longevity Programs**  
**BRU Financial Summary by Component**

*All dollars in thousands*

	FY2001 Actuals				FY2002 Authorized				FY2003 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
<b><u>Formula</u></b>												
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>												
None.												
<b><u>Non-Formula</u></b>												
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>												
Pioneers	21,393.0	0.0	12,666.2	34,059.2	21,869.4	0.0	12,594.1	34,463.5	22,507.8	0.0	12,480.5	34,988.3
Homes												
AK Longevity	1,035.1	0.0	384.5	1,419.6	988.2	0.0	376.7	1,364.9	1,005.1	0.0	427.4	1,432.5
Programs												
Mgmt												
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22,428.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>13,050.7</b>	<b>35,478.8</b>	<b>22,857.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>12,970.8</b>	<b>35,828.4</b>	<b>23,512.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>12,907.9</b>	<b>36,420.8</b>



## Alaska Longevity Programs

### Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2003

Increasing Care Requirements- The resident population of the Pioneers' Homes has changed dramatically over the past ten years with over 190 Pioneers' Homes beds converted from "residential" (coordinated services) to other levels of care. The result is that the needs of Pioneers' Home residents and the amount of direct-care staff assistance required to meet those needs has substantially increased.

In addition, there are now residents in the Pioneers' Homes system that, at times, require one-on-one care and supervision due to their aggressive behavior. An increase in the direct care staffing levels is required to ensure the protection of both the aggressive residents and all other residents.

Each Home continually assesses staffing in relation to the population served. If adequate staffing is not available to meet resident needs and safety requirements, vacant beds will not be filled until the residents-to-staff ratio is acceptable.

## Alaska Longevity Programs

### Summary of BRU Budget Changes by Component

#### From FY2002 Authorized to FY2003 Governor

*All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2002 Authorized</b>	<b>22,857.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>12,970.8</b>	<b>35,828.4</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Pioneers Homes	638.4	0.0	0.0	638.4
-AK Longevity Programs Mgmt	16.9	0.0	0.7	17.6
<b>Proposed budget decreases:</b>				
-Pioneers Homes	0.0	0.0	-113.6	-113.6
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>				
-AK Longevity Programs Mgmt	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0
<b>FY2003 Governor</b>	<b>23,512.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>12,907.9</b>	<b>36,420.8</b>